



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department
Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau

(323) 267-4800
www.lasd.org

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

Press Release

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Detectives Arrest Suspect Wanted in Hawthorne Double-Murder. Investigators Seek Public's Assistance in Linking Suspect to Similar Crimes.

On Friday, October 22, 2010, Robyn and Leamon Turnage were found deceased in their residence, bound and strangled to death. By Saturday evening, the suspect had been identified, tracked down, and arrested for the crimes.

John Wesley Ewell, (MB/53) was captured after detectives, following an intensive investigation and several leads, observed him using an ATM card taken from the crime scene. Ewell was taken into custody without incident.

Hawthorne Police Department personnel had responded to the Turnage residence in regards to a "check the welfare" call from out-of-state relatives. The relatives had become concerned when Robyn and Leamon, who had just returned from a trip across the country to witness the birth of their grandchild, had failed to answer several telephone calls. Hawthorne Police made entry into the residence and found the victims on the ground inside of the ransacked home.

Doggedly pursuing all options, detectives staked-out a gas station ATM in the 8500 block of West El Segundo Boulevard in the city of Gardena. Ewell arrived, driving a conspicuously red-colored car with a black hood.

Detectives are asking for the public's assistance regarding the suspect's vehicle in the hope that other similar crimes committed in the area might be solved. Anyone with any information regarding the suspect, the suspect's activity, or the suspect's car is asked to call Sheriff's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500.

SHB-108A-10

X X X

October 25, 2010